

# Case mate

Special Edition

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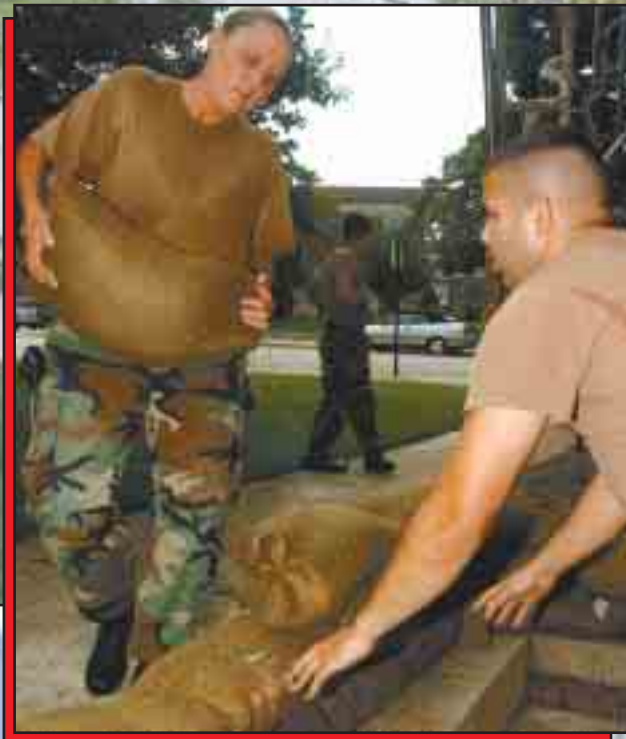
## ***Hurricane Isabel***

**Recovery  
will take  
months,  
millions**

**(Page 10)**

***Family Assistance Center pro-  
vides safe haven (Page 6)***

***Firefighters battle long hours,  
fierce floodwaters (Page 8)***





# Commentary

Chaplain's corner

## Is God testing you?

Now it came to pass after these things that God tested Abraham, and said to him, "Abraham!" And he said, "Here I am." But the Angel of the Lord called to him from heaven and said, "Abraham, Abraham!" So he said, "Here I Am." And he said, "Do not lay your hand on the lad, or do anything to him; for now I know that you fear God, since you have not withheld your son, your only son from me." Genesis 22:1, 11-12.

Someone said that life is nothing more than a test. The question is: is God testing you? If God is testing you just what does it mean? Why is there a test in the first place? Who needs to be tested? Is there some benefit or personal gain when we are being tested? Does God test us to inflict pain or does he does he do it to keep us from enjoying life? Do we need a test?

The way we respond to tests reveals our real character. It is easy to talk about faith and how good God is when things are going well. When there is money in the bank and health is good, anyone can talk about and praise God. But, what I have discovered is that God is more interested in building our character than He is interested in

us feeling good or having a good time.

The story in Genesis, chapter 22 is about Abraham and responding in faith when God asked him to slay Isaac, his son, as a sacrifice to God. Sometimes God tests us to see what is in our hearts. God knows and sees what we love or cherish more than life itself. He also knows all about us and is not surprised by our actions and thoughts. Then, why does God test us? I believe there are several reasons why God allows testing in our lives.

First, God knew what Abraham's response would be. The test here was not that God wanted to see what Abraham would do, but what Abraham's faith had become. Abraham's life of faith started long before this one act of obedience.

It started with his parents and the community of faith where he grew up. God works in our individual lives and He also uses the community and people of faith to help us in times of testing. In other words, God used Abraham's family and community to be part of his spiritual development so that his faith would be strong in times of testing. So, when the test came, he already knew what to do. Abraham realized from his act of obedience,

that he was a man after God's own heart. He withstood one of the most severe tests of his life (and there would be many more), but this one proved Abraham desired God's will above his own. Abraham learned a lot about himself and about the God he trusted. It is through testing we come to know God and about our strengths and weaknesses.

Second, through testing we learn that we can only receive from God what we are willing to give to Him. It was not until Abraham was willing to give God the very best – his son Isaac – that God gave the gift back to him. Sometimes we respond to life like we own it, but all of life is a gift and is just a loan to us. Wife, children, friends, jobs, health, money, house and cars, intellect, all we possess are gifts from God. We are merely stewards of these gifts and material possessions that are to be used for His honor and glory. The moment we think we own such gifts, we lose what has been given to us. God often tests us with material things so we can see ourselves for who we really are.

Third, Abraham learned that God was with him and that God provided his needs through testing.



Chaplain (Maj.) Wilbert Harrison  
Deputy Post Chaplain

In Genesis, chapter 22:16-17, Abraham was rewarded because of his faith and trust in God and his willingness to give God his best. Abraham learned that God was with him – he was not alone. He learned that God was faithful in his promises when God provided what he needed to use as a sacrifice.

No matter what the situation, trust God to provide for your needs. Is God testing you? It may be that He just wants to teach you about faith and trust. He wants to teach you that you are not the center of the universe and that there is a divine plan in store for you; but you must first give him your best. Remember, you can only get from God what you are willing to give back to God.

## Isabel offers effective lesson in hurricane prep, survival

No power, no ice, battery and water supplies running low.

Those have been the nightly news mantras ever since Hurricane Isabel graced the shores and inland areas of Hampton Roads Sept. 18.

While it's certainly unfortunate what residents have had to endure over the past week and a half, one has to wonder how many of these shortages were self-induced – in other words, who really took the time to prepare those "emergency supply kits" back when hurricane season first started?

I know I didn't, and like a whole bunch of other people I made the rounds among retail outlets the day before Isabel just hoping to find a

single four-count package of "D" batteries. My wife tackled the non-perishable canned goods run. I wonder how long we could have survived on blackeye peas and tuna fish? Doing things last minute leaves little time for menu planning.

In a way, I think we were fortunate in that our last home was in Okinawa where an annual typhoon or two is pretty much guaranteed. Thus, we've always made it a habit to keep a few candles around the house; matches in a plastic bag and a manual can opener. None of it was in the same spot, though, so a lot of drawer and cabinet contents were ripped asunder trying to find it all.

By late Wednesday, we succeeded in assembling a fairly decent supply kit. Still no extra batteries, but the blackeye peas loomed large. It was then that it dawned on us we really didn't need to stick around and weather the storm, especially with a guaranteed safe spot only a few hours drive away. We were also fortunate because the "safe spot" was with a relative who didn't mind our pet tagging along. Again, we

hadn't followed the readiness game plan by having an animal shelter pre-arranged.

After a quick trip to the home and garden store for bags of sand – by a stroke of luck they had just got an emergency shipment in – we shored up the door closest to our drainage pond out back and left early the next morning.

Luckily, we had provided our neighbor the phone number where we could be reached and they obliged with a call or two during the storm. Nobody else would have known where we were – again, we hadn't thought to provide our places of employment or a family point of contact list ahead of time.

By Friday, we learned the bad news: numerous trees down; roads impassable; and projected power outages for at least a week or more. Our two-day trip was instantly doubled, another instance for which we hadn't originally planned.

As we continued receiving updates on the unfortunate conditions back home, we became more determined to return with whatever emergency supplies we could muster. The number one item would be a generator, followed by as many coolers of ice and nonperishable goods as we could assemble.

(See LESSON, Page 3)

### Letter to the editor

#### God bless Fort Monroe and all of its personnel

Just a prayer to all of my Army family at Fort Monroe during hurricane Isabel. May the forces of nature spare you, may the love of God give you strength and courage to endure whatever harm may come your way.

Best wishes and prayers,  
**JAMES MYERS**  
Retired Lt. Col.  
U.S. Army Signal Corps

## Casemate

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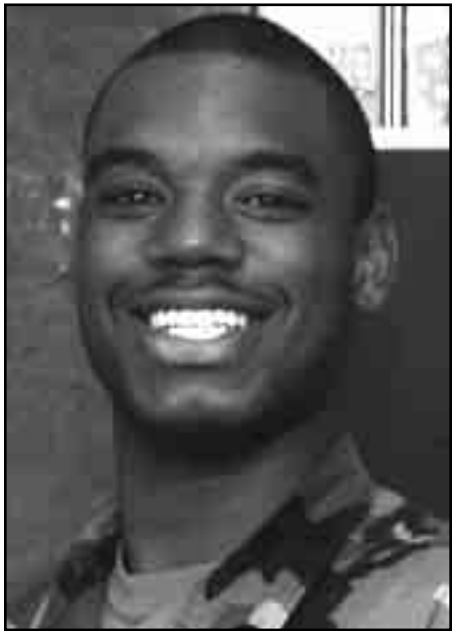
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# What impact did Hurricane Isabel have on you?



**Angelina Smith, dependent**

“We never lived this close to the water before. We were thinking that since it will only be a category one, that it would not be that bad. We will be better prepared next time.”



**Spc. Jamar Headen**

“This storm was crazy. Water came through the floors in the IOC (installations operation center) – it was waist deep. A fire truck came and got me out.”



**William Russell, Fitness Center Instructor**

“I witnessed fights at a gas station where people took advantage of senior citizens by ‘jumping line.’ There were two altercations and people were arrested. People didn’t expect this and didn’t know how to handle it. I felt bad because there were no accommodations made for elderly or handicapped people.”



**Michael Nelson, dependent**

“It brought the community together when the blackout happened. People got out and met their neighbors and shared their miseries. We went to Farmville and stayed with a neighbor’s family that had room for us. It was like just moving the whole neighborhood to the west.”



**Sandy Hardwick, Secretary Commander’s Planning Group**

“If it’s ever higher than a category two, I’m evacuating. I thought about going to Roanoke, but if you leave you spend all your time worrying about your house and friends and family. If you don’t have a cell phone, you don’t have communications back here. If I had gone to Roanoke, it probably would have driven me crazy wondering what was going on back here.”



“I was watching the news on my mini-TV, and they reported 75 mile-an-hour winds. I had a feeling that I should go check out the house. A neighbor’s tree had a circle of rain water around it; then the water disappeared. So, I knew it was under the tree.

“My wife was sleeping so I went in and woke her up. I knew the tree was going to hit that room. It was leaning about 50 degrees. Within seconds of getting her out, we watched the tree hit the house. It went through all three levels and even broke the fireplace diagonally across from the tree.

“I had to climb the tree to break the gutter off because it was pouring water in the house. My neighbor, Steve (who didn’t own the tree), climbed the tree with me and helped me break the gutter off. We had never even talked before the storm.

“Steve had power throughout the storm and kept food for me, gave me a generator and grill, water, flash lights and helped me clean my yard. He didn’t just do this for me, but for others in the neighborhood.

“Because of the storm, we plan to have a neighborhood cookout in the future.”

**Sgt. Maj. Shelton Williams, TRADOC Chaplain’s Sergeant Major**

## LESSON (Continued from page 2)

Like a lot of folks, I quickly learned the best time to buy a generator is not a day or two following a major hurricane. Availability is the number one problem, of course. Then you have to worry about the total wattage of appliances and lighting you want to power. I never realized that a generator’s advertised operating time is roughly cut in half when running at or near full capacity. That’s a big consideration when you know fuel pumps aren’t working.

Our helpful home and garden store worker also warned us not to even consider a “do-it-yourself” wiring job into our home’s circuit box. For one thing, it’s against the law, he advised; and, if you do it wrong, it will feed electricity back

into power lines, which could prove hazardous to utility repair crews.

We also learned exhaust fumes kill many homeowners because they operated a generator in the basement, or just outside an open window. Armed with a lot of good advice – we walked away with one of three remaining generators on the shelf. We were also fortunate to scrounge two five-gallon gas jugs and a 12-count package of “D” batteries ... better late than never, as the saying goes.

Fortunately, we were able to borrow a cooler that was large enough to carry all the perishable items we intended to buy. It was also double insulated and guaranteed to keep ice twice as long as a standard cooler. Another mental note was made

– be ready with a large, high quality cooler of my own next time.

Returning to find our house, and recently planted trees intact, we breathed a huge sigh of relief. The power was still out, but we had fresh supplies, which we were able to share with neighbors who decided to ride out the storm. “Never again,” they told us. “One of the hardest parts was not knowing any information about what was going on in the area.”

The regular phone line was dead, they added. And, without power, they were carefully conserving their cell phone batteries. Their battery-operated radio was also losing power and, like us, they hadn’t even considered buying a battery-operated television. Perhaps with better

planning, all of us could have fared a bit better during Isabel. No, we didn’t lose our home – I can’t begin to imagine how many proactive steps you can take to prepare for that – and power was restored a couple of days later, long before our ice ran out. But that doesn’t change the fact that we weren’t truly ready for a category two storm, and it could have been significantly worse had Isabel remained a category five.

With another month of hurricane season left, I’d be willing to bet emergency supply kits will become more the norm than the exception, but what about next year? I hope the lessons learned during Isabel will resonate for many hurricane seasons to come. **By Patrick Buffett, Casemate Staff Writer**



# News clips

## IMA Organization Day

Fort Monroe, NERO and NET-COM personnel will celebrate the creation of the Installation Management Agency (IMA) with the first Organization Day scheduled for Oct. 2. Theme for the celebration is Oktoberfest, and it begins at 11:30 a.m. at the Community Activities Center. Lunch will consist of bratwurst, hot dogs, sauerkraut, beans, salad and iced tea. Cost is \$6 per person. Games and activities will be featured after lunch.

Tickets can be purchased in the admin office at Post Headquarters, Building 77. For more information,

call 788-2175.

## Museum closed

The Casemate Museum is closed to the public until further notice because of water damage to carpets and other items.

## CCC luncheon Oct. 9 features ‘ghost’ author

The Casemate Community Connection’s Oct. 9 luncheon at the Fort Monroe Community Center will feature Joan Drum, author of “The Ghosts of Fort Monroe.” She will provide chilling tales of the fort’s very own ghosts.

Social hour begins at 10:30 a.m.,

with lunch and the presentation from 11:30 a.m. - 1 p.m.

The menu selections are croccoli quiche with a side salad; chicken BLT with a side salad; or Orichetti pasta with broccoli and peppers. Pumpkin pie with whipped topping, coffee and iced tea are included for \$7.50.

For reservations, call Alice Reese at 723-2421 by Oct. 5.

## Historical Society meeting cancelled

The Fort Monroe Historical Society meeting scheduled for Oct. 1 has been cancelled. The program scheduled for that date will be given Nov. 3 at a location yet to be determined. For more information, call David Johnson at 788-3935.

## Red Cross vacancies

The Fort Monroe Red Cross has the following vacancies:

### Secretary:

- Attends bi-monthly advisory council meetings and takes the minutes.
- Records proceedings of regular and special meetings.
- Provides members with copies of minutes in a timely fashion.
- Coordinates with any other council members to obtain information necessary to proceed with

duties.

Requires about four hours bi-monthly.

### Publicity Chair:

- Attends bi-monthly advisory council meetings.
- Coordinates/writes news articles for distribution to the Casemate.
- Advertises for available volunteer positions.
- Distributes flyers for upcoming blood drives.

For more information, call Marie Fago at 727-9646 or Mrs. Barrett at 722-9955.

## Thumpers on the Bay serves breakfast

Thumpers on the Bay serves breakfast from 7-11 a.m. Monday through Saturday, as well as lunch until 3 p.m. Daily lunch specials are available Monday - Friday. For more information, call 788-4680.

## Army recruiters needed

Army Recruiting is seeking highly motivated and dedicated NCOs to assist in providing the strength of America’s Army. Take the challenge, and learn how to become a recruiter.

For more information, call DSN 536-0271.

3X10 USAA

3X7 Spouse



Photo by Patrick Buffett

*Johnny Yarborough, 4, uses a popsicle stick to get through an apple skin after eating a spaghetti dinner at the Community Activities Center, Sept. 24.*

# Mobile kitchen brings comfort to Monroe families

**BY PATRICK BUFFETT**  
CASEMATE STAFF WRITER

Armed with spaghetti, T-bone steaks, ribs and other hot meals, a detachment from Fort Lee, Va., played a vital role in Fort Monroe's initial recovery from Hurricane Isabel.

Thirteen U.S. Army Culinary Arts School instructors of the 266th Quartermaster Company were called upon Sept. 19 to help feed Fort Monroe families who, at the time, were anticipating a 30-day wait for power knocked out by Isabel.

"We got the call around 5:00 Friday evening (Sept. 19), and we were on the road an hour later," said Sgt. 1st Class Bruce D. Davis, detachment noncommissioned officer in charge. By noon Saturday, they were serving lunch from their Mobile Kitchen Trailer, erected behind Fort Monroe's Community Activities Center.

"I really have to applaud all the guys who came here because we had storm damage in our area as well," he said. "It was minor compared to here, but it still took a lot for these soldiers to leave their families – some of them also without power – with little more than a moment's notice."

Noting that this is the sort of mission many of them spend regular duty days teaching younger soldiers to do, Davis said the entire detachment displayed a "completely positive" attitude during the deployment (they returned home Sept. 26).

"The reward, of course, was the tremendous acceptance we received from the Fort Monroe community," he said. Initially feeding anywhere between 250 to 350 residents and post workers at breakfast and twice that at dinner time, Davis said they

(See KITCHEN, Page 6)

3X14 Freedom

3X3 1/2 ECPI

# Family Assistance Center provides safe haven after Isabel

Army Community Service team 'hits ground running'

BY CONNIE SMALLS

CASEMATE EDITOR

Army Community Service personnel had no time to bemoan the condition of their water-drenched offices when they arrived Sunday morning, three days after the hurricane, at Building 36, the Soldier and Family Support Center (adjacent to the post office). They were on a mission to retrieve any toys or art supplies that could be used at the Community Activities Center,

where post families were gathering to find food, water, lights and support. Fort Lee soldiers had arrived on post late Friday evening and began setting up to serve hot meals.

By the time the first child arrived for dinner Sunday, Richey Cooper, ACS chief, and her team had a functioning area for children, she said.

"We had bean-bag games, Beanie Babies and all kinds of art projects for the children. We had at least 50-60 from toddlers to preteens."

Families and soldiers came in for refuge and a hot meal, with parents

talking in clusters while their children played, Cooper said.

CAC became the power source for not only lights, nourishment and shelter, but also for the camaraderie that rekindled spirits dampened by Isabel's crushing blow.

Children showed their appreciation in their drawings on large white sheets of paper available Sunday as they streamed into the activity center.

ACS personnel still tear up when they repeat what the children wrote. Thank you phrases dominated, with hearts, names of children, and the sayings: "We were here," "We survived Isabel," "Thank you for our food, water, and lights to let everybody be safe in the storm," and, "Thank you for doing this! We'd be eating Poptarts right now if it wasn't for you." Flowers, flags and children's faces with happy smiles were captured in bright vivid colors.

Those are but a few memories from a team that "hit the ground running" and wouldn't know until the next morning that they would keep that pace for the next six straight, 12-hour-plus days.

Early Monday morning Cooper was notified that a Family Assistance Center had been ordered up by the command. By 8 a.m., she and her team had reported back to the CAC and began coordinating and calling key personnel to assemble there to assist soldiers and families with everything from legal needs to government and Wherry Housing contacts, to insurance company representatives.

An immediate priority for the ACS team was acquiring hotel rooms for those residents displaced by the severe damage to their quarters.

"That first night when we couldn't get emergency housing for a couple of families, we were able to get them into a hotel in the Fort Eustis area. We needed seven rooms, and they had seven rooms.

Today we have six families staying at Quality Inn Suites in Williamsburg, and they're going to be there through the 30th.

Quality Inn Suites in Hampton had room for the post's first evacuees, to include their pets. They welcomed Wherry Housing people with pets; wasn't that wonderful? They're with the Army Lodging Program too, so they really lived up to their name, and that's not the first time they have."

Cooper's team gave particular



Photo by ACS member

**Kids put their feelings about the hurricane in drawings taped to the front desk in CAC.**

consideration to families with special needs' children, those with asthma and allergies, she said.

Also, with the number of Navy families at Wherry Housing, a call was made to the Navy Fleet and Family Service Center to invite them to join the already assembled post organizations and contacts.

"They were able to help connect us with more permanent housing, and they sent representatives here for a few days to answer questions and concerns from Navy families.

"I think as a result of the impact we had here at Fort Monroe, and how busy Navy reps were while they were here, that one of the naval stations set up a Family Assistance Center on Wednesday to catch any of the overflow that we were having," Cooper said.

***"These families – ragtag, tired families – hungry, exhausted ..."***

All families and service members who sought refuge at the post's Family Assistance Center were helped, she said.

"These families – ragtag, tired families – hungry, exhausted, frustrated and scared, in mourning for their lost possessions, trying to keep their heads with their children, coming in here to shower, when they realized we had hot water ... they were always here for breakfast, MRES (at lunchtime) and back again at 4:30 for dinner.

"There was absolutely nothing we didn't do here, Cooper said, "absolutely nothing! From babysitting, to scrubbing floors, to getting toilet paper, to setting up computers – we hit the ground running – many of us staggering from 6 in the morning until 8 at night or later," she said.

Everything was taken care of before the team left each evening, and that included at one point, looking at who would take whose bird or cat home because it couldn't go to the hotel, she said.

(See FAC, Page 7)



Photos by Patrick Buffett

**Staff Sgt. Eric Duren, 266th Quartermaster Company, serves food to Richard Mears, a Wherry Housing resident, Sept. 24.**

## KITCHEN (Continued from page 5)

were thanked again and again for the service they were providing. "The best part was this lit-



**Sgt. Michael A. Webb, The U.S. Continental Band, adds a special touch to the dinner meal at CAC, Sept. 24.**

tle boy who came out by the trailer last night (Sept. 23) to just say thank you and that the food was good. There wasn't any parent around telling him what to say. You could just tell he meant it from his heart. That was good."

Davis also lauded the community in general for "meeting their every need," no matter what they asked for. "I don't know if it was the community as a whole, the command or a little of both, but it was un-be-lievable," he said, adding extra emphasis to each syllable.

Davis also complimented the community for its positive attitude in the face of a crisis. "Over the past few days we've been reminded how lucky we were, how unfortunate others can be, and the strength of our military families.

"If something like this ever happens again, I think every one of us would jump at the chance to help now that we've been reminded of the monstrous impact we can have."



FAC (Continued from page 6)

Cooper credits her cool, calm manner in handling her first FAC call-up to many things.

“My staff ... they don’t question me. We (Army Community Service) just passed accreditation, we’ve trained jointly with other services for this kind of emergency. We were ready.

“I didn’t panic. I called everyone and said: ‘We’re up, we’ve got a FAC; you’ve got two hours to get here.’”

Eva Granville, ACS member, had been called up before, during Desert Storm. They worked 24-7 during that time, but it was different from this one, she said, because it wasn’t local. They were dealing with different issues.

“Here, we were dealing with families who needed emergency shelter immediately,” she said. “We worked hour after hour; we were so stressed with almost every hotel booked. Marie Hinton’s son, John, drove around Williamsburg looking for hotels, and we made reservations at some of the places he found.

“We had families begging for a place to stay. We were the center for every issue,” she said.

“Richey stayed calm and answered everything,” Granville continued. “I am so impressed with her, and I want to compliment her on staying so calm. I haven’t even had time to tell her, or the staff, how I feel,” Granville said.

Marie Hinton, ACS member, agrees with Cooper and Granville about the team’s responsiveness.

“It’s been very hectic, but supportive. We knew what had to be done – there was no question that we could do it,” she said.

The soldiers made an impression on Hinton and the others, she said. They were there for everyone and each other. Even an element from The U.S. Continental Band played during the

evening meals, said PFC Jeff Estress, 58th Quartermaster, Fort Lee.

“It was a nice touch ... I liked the band,” he said.

“There was a lot of damage here for a Cat 2 hurricane. I was happy to come and help out – everyone was so nice. I’d actually like to be stationed here at Fort Monroe,” Estress said.

PFC Jeremy Johnson, also with 58th QM, agreed with Estress about the band, the people, and being stationed at Monroe.

They and other soldiers manning the CAC’s operation and meals have more than memories to take with them – they all received coins from various commanders here, some pocketing four or five different coins.

Hinton and Cooper said they enjoyed seeing the soldiers show off their coins. They, and other ACS members feel a real closeness with the soldiers and other post workers who came together for this unprecedented emergency, Cooper said.

“I’m extremely proud of my team. I want our community to know when I watched the dedication – and not just us – the dedication of those DPW guys, Andy Cross, and the people walking in and out of CAC everyday doing their jobs – Frank Pinion and his crew working furiously to repair quarters to get the families back in, and with the exception of one time, I’ve never heard a squabble. I think that’s amazing,” Cooper



Photo by ACS member

**Members of The U.S. Continental Army Band entertain families and soldiers during dinners at the Community Activities Center.**

said. “Now, we’re tired ... real tired, and I know my limit is going to be reached today, but I just want this whole installation to know that they should be proud. When you look at the overwhelming disaster – on our scale – overwhelming. When you look at the dedication of these people doing their jobs, it’s just unbelievable,” she said. When asked what she thought the heart and soul of the Fort Monroe community was made of, Cooper thought for a few moments and said, “I’d like to think their heart and soul is us – Army Community Service. “A lot of people look at us like we don’t do anything, and the irony of this is people are actually seeing now what we do. When folks think they don’t need programs like ours, and then something like this happens and we do what we’re trained to do, they actually see our value.”

6X7 Opportunity Inc.

# Firefighters battle long hours, flood waters

BY PATRICIA RADCLIFFE  
CASEMATE STAFF WRITER

Except for going home a couple of evenings, fire chief Delinor Vantree has been on duty since Sept. 17. “We’ll be here until it’s over; we don’t quit,” Vantree said.

Indeed, they have been. Both seven-man shifts of firefighters have been working from Sept. 18 through Sept. 29 – accumulating 600 to 700 hours of overtime. With a firehouse that sleeps seven comfortably, many slept on chairs, when they had a chance to sleep.

“The worst night was Friday night. I got in at 6 a. m. Friday (Sept. 19) and didn’t even make muster. I was immediately gone on calls that lasted until some time after midnight. I got a couple hours of sleep and was up again at 5 a. m.,” firefighter, Scott Caldwell said.

They also had two guests – telephone center personnel who were stranded when their cars flooded out, spent a night at the firehouse.

“Anything you can think of that could be a hazard during a hurricane, happened during this one,” firefighter Phillip Andrucci commented. He referred to multiple electrical fires, gas leaks and hazardous waste that washed up on post.

One major incident was a fire call on Sept. 18. During the high winds and pounding rain, firefighter David Earl walked from the firehouse to

a fire call on Tidball Lane because the trucks were already on site. The fire was in the basement of the residence where water was neck high. In spite of dangerous conditions, the fire was successfully extinguished.

With all that was going on, the fire department maintained all the generators on post. This was a monumental task considering that there was no power to pump fuel into the department’s truck that distributed it to the generators.

“The truck holds 100 gallons and some of the generators hold as much as 500 gallons. Each rotation of the hand pump pumps one-eighth of a gallon,” Caldwell said.

The firefighters pumped fuel by hand for a total of three days, with some of the generators requiring refills every 5 hours.

They also pumped water out of houses. “I know we did over 100 houses, some of them a many as five times because the water kept coming back in,” Andrucci said.

“We can get the water pumped out; but when



Photo by Scott Caldwell  
**Firemen prepare to pump water from a quarters’ basement on Frank Lane, Sept. 19.**

we get it done, it comes back. The ground water is the problem. We need a better drainage system,” fire captain Carl Dinkins said.

“Every disaster is different, you’re going to run into certain problems. You can’t plan for everything; it’s not possible. Nature is the unexpected force,” Dinkins said.

2X3 Kecough-tan

2X5 tysinger



Photo by Patricia Radcliffe  
**Phillip Andrucci shows how high the flood waters rose.**



Photo by Scott Caldwell  
**Working 16 to 18-hour days with a limited number of beds available, firefighters like Gregory Land (above) caught as little as two hours of sleep a day ... any place they could.**

2X4

2X3 1/2 Smith



# Isabels damage forces health clinic to juggle services

**BY PATRICK BUFFETT**  
CASEMATE STAFF WRITER

Temporarily closed down as a result of flood damage from Hurricane Isabel, the Fort Monroe health clinic is awaiting word from the U.S. Army Center for Health Promotions and Preventive Medicine that will determine whether they are able to resume many of their routine patient services

The flooding resulted in contamination of air handling systems and all of the medications that were maintained in the clinic's pharmacy, according to Sgt. 1st Class Baxter Morrison, NCOIC of the facility.

"We've yet to establish all the details as to what needs to be done to fully reopen," Morrison said, noting it may still take months to repair damage to the clinic's basement level. "But we're keeping our fingers crossed that we can resume as many patient services as possible on

the first, second and third floors in a very short time."

Given Craven Health Clinic's current status, Morrison said patients will need to call the regular TRICARE help line to schedule new appointments at McDonald Army Hospital, Fort Eustis, until further notice.

"Our primary care providers have transferred to that location to assist in handling the extra patient load," said Lt. Col. Craig Mears, clinic commander. "We have also set up transportation for the families and soldiers who lost all modes of transportation due to the hurricane."

Morrison emphasized that all medical records are safe, and that he and the staff are working out a system to make them available for appointments at Eustis.

"Until we work all that out, we're asking patients here to proceed to appointments without their records. The Eustis clinic is aware of

the situation and will take care of the necessary documentation to keep your records up to date. A lot of that is handled electronically anyway, so it shouldn't pose a problem."

Craven's dental clinic personnel and records have also relocated to Eustis. Optometry has also made the move.

"Active (not expired) prescription refills can be taken care of at the Langley Pharmacy (near the base exchange), at Eustis, or at the Portsmouth Naval Medical Center," Morrison said. "Again, they're aware of the situation and are prepared to assist patients."

As a temporary measure, the clinic staff has established a walk-in sick call for active duty only at the Baybreeze Community Center. Hours of operation are from 7:30 a.m. to 4 p.m.

Those with questions are encouraged to call the regular TRICARE appointment line at 1-800-931-9501.



Photo by Master Sgt. Raymond Torres-Carmona

**Calm After the Storm ...** *A Monroe soldier trudges through flood water inside the Casemate the morning after Isabel. For the first time in history to anyone's best recollection, the moat around the historic Casemate overflowed.*



Photo by Patricia Radcliffe

**On The Edge ...** *Juan Carlos, a contractor with National Roofing, repairs damage to a building along the seawall after Isabel stormed ashore with 80-plus mph winds.*

*On the cover ... Top photo, Sgt. Robin Ablondi and Spc. Gabriel Liera emplace sandbags around buildings in the Headquarters TRADOC area. Center photo, Pfc. Omar Bermudez of the post chaplains office, removes debris from flood waters near the Chapel of the Centurion inside the Casemate. Bottom photo, Wherry Housing residents assess their property damage.*



Photo by Patricia Radcliffe

**Isabel Waves Pummel Pier ...** *Ron Michaud, a quality assurance specialist with the Post's Directorate of Public Works, checks out damage done to Engineer Pier along Fenwick Road. "In my 24 years, I've seen nothing of this magnitude," Michaud said. "I can speculate that they will rebuild." The inset photo shows the pier as it looked Sept. 17, the day before the storm.*



**Despite flood waters and fallen trees, Fort Monroe’s historic homes outlasted the ravages of Hurricane Isabel Sept. 18.**



Contributed Photos

# Isabel recovery will take months, millions

**BY PATRICK BUFFETT**  
CASEMATE STAFF WRITER

The scars of Hurricane Isabel will take months to mend, according to Fort Monroe commander, Col. Perry D. Allmendinger. And when all is said and done “tens of millions” of dollars will have been spent on everything from debris removal to replaced flooring, the colonel said, also noting that an exact damage cost estimate has yet to be determined. But those are just the unfortunate realities of a natural disaster. Allmendinger said his greater priority is the health and welfare of post resi-

dents and employees. “We’ve been through a tremendous ordeal, and our primary goal at this point is to do whatever is necessary to restore Fort Monroe to the world class installation it always has been,” Allmendinger said. “It’s going to take time and money, but we’re going to make it right.” As “non-mission-essential” post employees returned to work Sept. 29, most of their questions about Isabel were the same: “What happened on post during the storm?” “What sort of damage was done?” and “What’s the plan for the remaining repairs?” “We were obviously hit pretty hard,” said Allmendinger, who rode out the most dangerous part of the hurricane in his quarters along Ingalls Road. “The wind really wasn’t our biggest problem ... most of the damage was caused by flooding.” By late afternoon on the day of the storm, the colonel said Fort Monroe was literally “one with the Chesapeake Bay.” The seawall was covered, he said. Planks, probably from the destroyed engineer pier, tree limbs and even a dumpster

mate overflowed. “The water was up to the second rung of the railing around the moat,” recalled Andy Cross, a post DPW employee who spent that night and a few since in the emergency “Installation Operations Center” established specifically for Isabel. With that amount of water, it didn’t take long for basements and ground-level offices to also flood – ruining electrical panels, water heaters, carpet and tons of personal possessions. The corrosive salt water also totaled numerous vehicles, both military and privately owned. “We didn’t realize the magnitude of the damage that was done until 2200 (10 p.m.) that night,” Allmendinger said. “There was an inordinate amount of trees down. Light poles along the seawall were gone. The engineer pier was no longer standing. Inside the Casemate, the water was up to the hood of the HMMWV we were riding in.” Friday morning brought sunny skies, which seemed almost surreal given the surrounding conditions. While some, like post chaplain’s assistant Pfc. Omar Bermudez, ventured out to clear away debris, others did what they could to assist rapidly receding storm water.

Of the latter crowd, Allmendinger singled out Peters and Sgt. Matthew Perry from the Personnel Administration Center. “They spent the better part of the day keeping debris from blocking the drainage system. It was the first of many true displays of teamwork that was needed to get the installation back up and running,” the commander said. “It was what needed to be done at the moment ... we just took care of business,” Perry added, noting that the water was waist deep when they went out at 10 a.m. Nine hours later, when they quit for the day, the water was shin-deep. “The (post commander) said we were his heroes,” Peters said. “I guess I just viewed it as doing my duty. And I knew that’s what it would take before we could begin pumping out our basements and assessing our own damage (Peters estimated his was roughly \$10,000 worth).”

The IOC’s game plan for restoring post operations was already set in stone. The number one priority was to “protect lives and property,” Allmendinger emphasized, by removing potential hazards like downed power lines or partially fallen trees. The next order of business was the removal of obstacles along primary roads so

***“We didn’t realize the magnitude of the damage that was done until 2200 (10 p.m.) that night. There was an inordinate amount of trees down. Light poles along the seawall were gone. The engineer pier was no longer standing. Inside the Casemate, the water was up to the hood of the HMMWV we were riding in.”***

were being swept down Ingalls. “We went up onto the wall of the Casemate and could see the waves literally crashing over the top of Wherry Housing,” said Staff Sgt. Bobby Peters of the post’s Plans and Training Division. His home is adjacent to Building 5 inside the Casemate. “It wasn’t long after that when we noticed the water pouring through the sallyports.” For the first time in history to anyone’s best recollection, the moat around the historic Case-



**Debris and broken light poles litter the seawall after Hurricane Isabel’s flood waters subsided.**



emergency, repair and debris removal vehicles could move about. While all that was going on, the “true experts” like Cross and NERO’s Steve Mason began communication with the electric company to restore power beginning with critical services, followed by housing and then administrative buildings.

“This is the sort of situation where you have to be methodical,” Allmendinger said. “One piece has to be working, or the next one can’t.”

“Restoring power is a good example,” Cross added. “It’s not a matter of just flipping everything back on. We first had to be sure that any damage done to transformers and circuit boxes was repaired, and keep in mind that a lot of boxes had to be replaced because they were under water. You work that grid by grid until the power is eventually restored.”

And family homes took priority over empty administrative buildings for obvious reasons, Allmendinger said. “It goes back to that number one priority – the health and welfare of the families on post.”

Initially, the IOC team was told it would take up to a month for the power to return to some homes. One of Allmendinger’s immediate reactions was to ask the Army to send a “Mobile Kitchen Trailer” – the same set up that goes to soldiers in the field during major deployments – to feed families, post workers and contractors who were already part of the recovery effort.

The equipment and a 13-member detachment from the 266th Quartermaster Company, Fort Lee, was in place at the Community Activities Center and operational by noon Sept. 20 (See KITCHEN Page 5).

“That is definitely one of many success stories that should come out of this whole thing,” Allmendinger said. “It meant so much to our families to have a place to go where they could get a hot meal and information at the same time.”

Town hall meetings were conducted daily at the CAC until Sept. 24 when Allmendinger and Lt. Col. Craig Simoneau, chief of the directorate of public works detailed the “tremendous cooperation” that had led to a 100 percent restoration of power to post residents. The replacement of electric water heaters destroyed by the flooding was also nearing completion,



Photo by Patrick Buffett

**Cpl. Ed Gish, left, and Spec. Earl Logwood, both from the 233rd Military Police Detachment, fill sandbags for placement around low-lying areas on Fort Monroe in preparations for Hurricane Isabel.**



Photo by Patricia Radcliffe

**Fort Monroe soldiers clear away debris Sept. 23, five days after Hurricane Isabel swept through the Hampton Roads area.**

Simoneau announced.

Fort Monroe had “turned the corner,” Allmendinger told the gathering. Armed with the ability to cook and take hot showers, residents would find it far easier to tackle the daunting task of sorting through destroyed personal property and continuing to clear debris, no matter how long it took.

About 70 percent of the power to administrative areas on post had also been restored at that point. The remaining 30 percent was expected to get power by the time the weekend was out. However, as many returning employees discovered Monday morning, there are a few more obstacles beyond electricity for those in ground level or basement offices.

“Most of it is flooring and carpet that needs to be ripped out,” Allmendinger said. “We’ll have to redo some sheet rock, and there’s a lot of furniture and electronics that will need to be replaced.”

Environmentalists are helping to determine if any areas pose a health risk due to mold and mildew. A U.S. Army Medical Command assessment has already closed the Fort Monroe Health Clinic (See CLINIC Page 9) due to the hazards contamination might pose to patients. Employees with respiratory ailments may have to be moved to other workstations.

“This is not going to be an overnight fix,” Allmendinger said. “And it’s going to take teamwork and, quite likely, a bit of elbow grease from employees themselves to get it done.”

“We just want everyone to know that we understand what it’s like out there ... we’ve been dealing with it for more than a week now,” he added. “And repairs will come as soon as we’re able to make it happen.”

The DPW is currently developing projects and prioritizing them to not only repair what was damaged, but also incorporate measures that will reduce and/or prevent similar damage from occurring during future storms, Simoneau said. Examples are elevating mechanical equipment and possibly raising ground floor elevations.

Allmendinger also noted some “smart decisions” will have to be made to help mitigate possible damage future northeastern or hurricanes might cause. “Carpet may be replaced by tile in the damaged areas and we may look at relocating some of the admin areas that are at basement level,” he said.

“That’s the education piece – those things we need to improve upon to lessen the impact next time,” the colonel said. “And there will be a next time, that’s just a fact of life in this area.”

There is at least one facet of the past 14 days that Allmendinger said he wouldn’t recommend doing differently when the next major storm comes along. “I honestly felt we were very well prepared for this one,” he said. “We took the

weather forecast seriously early on, even though they predicted landfall could be anywhere from South Carolina to New Jersey.”

Time was the luxury that allowed post details to build sandbag barriers – three times as many as any other storm, Allmendinger noted – and board up windows along the seawall. Town hall meetings provided valuable information to help residents and employees prepare for the storm.

“The most difficult decision was whether we should evacuate the whole post or just the lower-lying areas,” Allmendinger said. Ultimately it was only Wherry Housing residents who were told to leave once it was certain Isabel would hit Hampton Roads head on. Most of the Wherry units sit within a few hundred yards of the seawall.

A large number of those families were given free accommodations at a nearby Quality Inn – those rooms becoming available as a result of the cancelled TRADOC Tattoo scheduled for Sept. 20 and 21. Only a handful chose to stay at the pre-established shelters at Fort Lee.

“We allowed other residents to remain here, and I think that was the right decision,” the post commander said. “Quite a few of those folks were thanking us afterward because they were able to save a lot more stuff by moving it to a higher level when the floodwaters started coming up.”

The residents who remained behind, along with returning Wherry Housing families, also formed an unintended, but immediate support network following the storm.

“The rank on the collar didn’t matter, or if one was from TRADOC and the other from NERO ... everyone banded together,” said Lt. Col. Ken Marsh, TRADOC liaison officer to the IOC. Like many on Fort Monroe, his pleasant demeanor was remarkable considering he lost his car to Isabel’s floodwaters.

“This community has lived up to the values the Army promotes, especially personal courage,” Marsh said. “I think this is a good measure of the level of support and caring this installation is capable of when it really counts.”

“I’m not sure if outsiders can truly understand the morale of people on this installation,” Allmendinger added. “Despite everything that’s happened, they’re still upbeat, they’re still smiling.”

“I’d almost equate this situation to the relationship shared by veterans who have been in a combat environment,” Allmendinger said. “These people have faced a catastrophic situation, and a bond has formed that few others can understand. And the credit goes to them for the progress this installation has made thus far. Every family, soldier, DA civilian and contractor here pulled this installation back together, and I’m grateful.”





Photos by Patricia Radcliffe  
**Mitch Edgar, a Wherry Housing resident, looks at a large patch of white mold growing in his Self Storage area by the Bay Breeze Community Center, Sept. 24. Mitch and his wife, Rhonda, said they lost 75 percent of their stored items due to water damage and mold. The Edgars, who arrived at Fort Monroe in August, lost two wood-burning stoves in the flooded shed. One of stoves was irreplaceable according to Rhonda. "The stoves were symbolic of this man's dream to be self sufficient while living in a log cabin in Washington State, Oregon or Montana."**



**Rhonda Edgar piles up water soaked items removed from her storage area Sept. 24.**

# Coping with losses



Photo by Patrick Buffett  
**Fort Monroe Fitness Center employee Jon Pearlman cleans up weight sets and other equipment that were swamped by Hurricane Isabel. About five inches of water pooled in the basement area of the brand new fitness complex. Center managers said it may take weeks to test each piece of equipment for damage. Some machines come with a price tag exceeding \$10,000.**



**Chandra Garcia, a Navy wife, sorts through her belongings behind her quarters Sept. 24. Her husband's pea coat was found several blocks away by a neighbor, Garcia said.**



# In-state tuition info now available to Army family online

ALEXANDRIA, Va. (Army News Service, Sept. 29, 2003) — The Army Continuing Education System launched the In-State Tuition Web site Sept. 15.

“The site provides information on state policies and laws regarding in-state tuition eligibility requirements for military personnel and their

families,” said Mike Tevnan, education specialist at the U.S. Total Army Personnel Command.

The site will also track the initiative’s progress to achieve common policies in all states, Tevnan said.

The Army contacted each state asking them to consider their residency requirements for in-

state tuition in light of the Army’s goals for common policies. The desired outcome, Tevnan said, is eligibility for in-state tuition rates under each of the following conditions: in-state tuition for soldiers and family members within the state of legal residence; immediate in-state tuition for

(See TUITION, Page 16)

## Neighbors needed

Neighborly volunteers are needed to help our elderly and disabled Hampton neighbors recover from Hurricane Isabel. All our yards were in a mess, and some of us just aren't able to get out and pick up the debris. If you would like to be part of the team that helps our less-able neighbors get their yards cleaned up, please contact the Hampton Clean City Commission at 727-6394 or <mailto:hccc@hampton.gov> to sign up for the recovery team or to request more information.

You can also call the Volunteer Center at 262-0190. We would like to begin the cleanup work as soon as possible, so call now to sign up.

The work involves raking, bagging, and/or stacking light yard debris such as twigs, leaves, small branches, and dead plants; litter cleanup; and possibly light pruning of damaged small trees or trees that are on the ground to prepare areas for tree removal. The work does not involve using chain saws or other heavy equipment. Work sites will be available when you are, whether you're available on weekdays or weekends. Some tools will be available, but if you have tools, we ask that you volunteer your tools as well. Bags for debris will be provided. Other work includes litter and light debris removal from streets and roads throughout the city. Tools will be provided. You pick the area you would like to clean up, or ask us for recommendations. Thank you. *(From Hampton Clean City Commission)*

5X12 Suncom

# Guard troops battle Isabel’s destruction in five states

BY MASTER SGT. BOB HASKELL

ARLINGTON, Va. (Army News Service, Sept. 23, 2003) — More than 2,500 Army and Air National Guard troops in five states and the District of Columbia turned out with chainsaws, trucks and water trailers to help people along the East Coast deal with the devastation of Hurricane Isabel.

They evacuated people from flooded island homes to shelters on higher ground. They helped local police departments prevent looting. They provided clean water and ice to communities with contaminated water systems. And they helped state transportation workers clean up the storm’s considerable debris.

“I am always impressed by their dedication, commitment and willingness to respond in a moments notice – at times putting their own well being at risk,” said Army Guard Col. Peter Aylward, who directed the National Guard Bureau’s Crisis Action Team in Arlington, Va.

“We will do whatever it takes to help save lives, prevent suffering and mitigate property damage,” Aylward added.

Guard soldiers drove Humvees into 30-inch deep floodwaters to rescue people stranded on islands along Maryland’s Eastern Shore of the battered Chesapeake Bay.

Nine of them spent the weekend providing local police with enough of a presence to prevent looting, said Maj. Todd Stewart, who commanded a 200-soldier task force responsible for 250 miles of shoreline.

“They only have a couple of police officers, and they had problems with looters the night before. We gave them a deterrent to prevent further problems,” Stewart explained.

Most of the Guard’s labors were focused in North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland and the District of Columbia where millions of people were coping without electricity and drinking water. The storm was blamed for about 30 deaths, including 17 in Virginia.

More than 1,300 troops were on duty in North Carolina, and over 600 in Virginia. Nearly 700 were on duty in Maryland during the weekend’s peak of activity, and 170 were served in the nation’s capital.

Troops evacuated more than 1,000 people from Maryland coastal communities with five-ton trucks and Humvees and also provided security details for Hooper and Taylor islands, said Maj. Charles Kohler, the state’s Guard spokesman.

North Carolina Guard members airlifted water, ice and military meals to the Outer Banks, transported 2,500 gallons of fuel by ferry boat, deployed 40 generator teams to provide auxiliary power and dispatched security teams to North Hampton and Hyde counties, Guard



Maj. Cotton Puryear

**Virginia Army National Guard Spc. Brent Hart, Staff Sgt. Ronald Cruz, and Sgt. 1st Class Jerry Bristow clear debris from Route 618 in Surry County after Hurricane Isabel blew through in mid-September. They are members of Company C, 276th Engineer Battalion.**

officials reported.

In Virginia, about 120 members of the 276th Engineer Battalion helped Department of Transportation crews clear some 400 miles of primary and secondary roads in Surry and Isle of Wight counties, between Virginia Beach and Richmond.

Other Virginia Guard Soldiers, from the 2nd Battalion, 111th Field Artillery, were ordered to state active duty to help provide traffic control in Hampton and to distribute water to Hampton and Virginia Beach.

About 300 citizen-soldiers began operating eight regional water and ice distribution sites on Sept. 21, said Lt. Col. Chester Carter III, Virginia’s National Guard spokesman.

More than 1,400 troops in seven states were waiting when the Category 2 storm hit the North Carolina coast with 100 mph winds and torrential rains at midday on Sept. 18 and then cut a swath toward the north as it diminished to a tropical storm.

The combination of high winds and floodwaters from the storm, said to cover an area the size of Montana, led to federal disaster declarations for North Carolina, Virginia, Maryland, the District of Columbia and Delaware. West Virginia, New Jersey and Pennsylvania government leaders declared state emergencies.

Guard troops were ready to help state officials assess the damage and help citizens in those states as well. Fifteen two-man crews in West

Virginia, for example, were prepared to rescue and evacuate citizens from areas of that waterlogged mountainous state where flooding from Isabel’s heavy rains was a major concern.

Air National Guard commanders ordered 59 planes – including jet fighters and huge transport planes – flown from their home bases in six states along the storm’s projected path, between Virginia and New York, to safer havens in other parts of the country.

The Virginia Army Guard also sent half a dozen helicopters to Frankfort, Ky.

This war against the weather is an old National Guard mission under new management.

“We’re here to provide the policies, the coordination, and the money for the people out there, who are doing the work,” Christopher Gardner, the Guard Bureau’s acting vice chief, told the members of the newly formed Crisis Action Team at the National Guard’s headquarters.

Guard officials were quick to point out that plenty of troops were available for state active duty even though tens of thousands of citizen-soldiers and airmen have been deployed because of the global war against terrorism.

*(Editor’s note: Master Sgt. Bob Haskell is a journalist with the National Guard Bureau. See related story below, Guard, Isabel scrimmage over homeland defense)*

## Guard, Isabel scrimmage over homeland defense

BY MASTER SGT. BOB HASKELL

ARLINGTON, Va. (Army News Service, Sept. 23, 2003) — Call it a scrimmage.

That is a football practice under game conditions with which Army National Guard Col. Peter Aylward compared the test that Hurricane Isabel gave the National Guard Bureau’s new Division for Homeland Defense, and the way it has begun to oversee the states’ responses to emergencies in mid-September.

It was the baptism under fire –

or wind and rain – for the bureau in its new capacity as a joint headquarters forged by Lt. Gen. H. Steven Blum since he became chief last April.

Teams at the Army and Air Guard readiness centers, located near Washington, oversaw the response to national emergencies before Blum reorganized the bureau into a provisional joint headquarters, similar to the United States’ other major military combatant commands.

“This was the opportunity to

scrimmage. A scrimmage helps to validate the playbook and makes sure we have the right players on the field and that they are calling the right plays,” said Aylward, the chief of the bureau’s Homeland Defense Division.

That did not diminish the importance of the bureau’s primary mission – to support the more than 2,500 Guard troops called to state active duty in five states and the District of Columbia, Aylward pointed out.

“In some cases, our soldiers out

there risked their own lives to help save their neighbors or their neighbors’ property, including animals,” he said. “I am always impressed by their dedication, commitment and willingness to respond at a moments notice. For them, this was the Super Bowl, or at least the playoffs.”

Aylward knows a thing or two about preparing for big football games, because he was a linebacker for his high school team in Melrose, Mass. He also helped to coordinate

(See GUARD, Page 16)



# First aid procedures post-storm damaged trees

The trail of damages after a major storm truly reveals the power of Mother Nature, and the remains can be devastating, especially for trees. Unprotected, trees are vulnerable to the storm's damages and the wounds might look fatal. However, even though major branches may be broken, foliage might be shredded, or the bark may be torn and gouged, trees have an amazing ability to recover from even the most severe cases.

First aid for damaged trees after a major storm can help trees recover, urges the International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) and the National Arbor Day Foundation.

Follow a few simple tree first aid procedures immediately after a major storm:

— Do not try to do it all yourself. If large limbs are broken or hanging, or if ladder or overhead chain saw work is needed, it is a job for a professional arborist.

— Take safety precautions. Look up and look down. Be on the alert and stay away from downed utility lines and dangerous hanging branches that look like they are ready to fall.

— Assess the damages. Evaluate your trees carefully by asking the following questions:

Other than the storm damage, is the tree basically healthy and vigorous?

Are major limbs or the leader (the main upward-trending branch on most trees) branch still remaining?

Is at least 50 percent of the tree's crown (branches and leaves) still intact?

Are there remaining branches that can form a new branch structure?

If you answered "yes" to the majority of these questions, there is a good chance for complete recovery. For assistance, hire an ISA Certified Arborist to determine the tree's conditions.

— Remove any broken branches or stubs still attached to the tree. Removing the jagged remains of smaller sized broken limbs to minimize the risk of decay agents entering the wound. Smaller branches should be pruned at the point where they join larger ones. Follow the pruning guidelines shown for proper cuts to help the tree recover faster. For larger branches that are broken, a professional arborist who has the necessary equipment and knowledge needed to do the job safely should cut them back to the trunk or a main limb.

— Resist the urge to over-prune. Do not worry if the tree's appearance is not perfect. With branches gone, your trees may look unbalanced or naked. You will be surprised at how fast they will heal, grow new foliage, and return to their natural beauty.

— Do not top your trees! Untrained individuals may urge you to cut back all of the branches, on the mistaken assumption that it will help avoid breakage in future storms. However, professional arborists say that "topping," the cutting of main branches back to stubs, is extremely harmful and unhealthy for your trees. Stubs will often grow back many weakly-attached branches that are higher and are more likely to break when a storm strikes. Also, topping will reduce the amount of foliage, on which the tree depends for the food and nourishment needed for regrowth. A topped tree that has already sustained major storm damage is more likely to die than

repair itself.

A qualified tree care professional can assist you with the damages and will perform the job safely. To find an ISA Certified Arborist near you, visit [www.treesaregood.org](http://www.treesaregood.org). For more information on storm-recovery tree care, visit [www.arborday.org/media](http://www.arborday.org/media) or contact ISA at (217) 355-9411.

The International Society of Arboriculture (ISA) is a non-profit organization supporting tree care research around the world, and is dedicated to the care and preservation of shade and ornamental trees.

For further information, please visit [www.treesaregood.org](http://www.treesaregood.org). *(From International Society of Arboriculture news release)*

## 4X12 Verizon

### CFC in progress

Fort Monroe is collecting donations for CFC until Nov. 21. The Peninsula CFC goal, announced Sept. 4, is \$1.8 million.

For post information, call Paul Heilman at 788-3737; for TRADOC information, call Michelle Proulx at 788-3241.

the National Guard's supporting role during the 1996 Summer Olympics in Atlanta, Ga.

"It's like General Blum calls it — neighbors helping neighbors," said Aylward, who has a New Englander's way of cutting to the quick.

The Homeland Defense Division helps its neighbors by making sure they have what they need in personnel, equipment and supplies such as bottled water to deal with an emergency such as a massive, Category 2 hurricane.

"That's the wonderful thing about a hurricane. You have time to plan. It's not like an earthquake that makes you jump through all kinds of hoops right away," said Aylward about how Isabel gave the Guard time to get ready to test its new system.

People along the Eastern Seaboard knew Isabel, which reached Category 5 extremes while still at sea, was coming nearly a week before it hit land. The fact it had weakened considerably before hitting North Carolina on Sept. 18 was a blessing indeed, Aylward said.

Therefore, as far as he was concerned, it was a scrimmage — a way to train for the bigger games, the really catastrophic events such as Sept. 11, which the joint headquarters is designed to deal with.

"This was an opportunity for the joint team to gain confidence," Aylward said. "It

was a way to test our crisis communications system and to help us sort out what are the critical issues for the states that we are here to support.

"Crisis communications is the key," he added. "And the whole system has to be exercised."

Although this coach was not reluctant to hold people's feet to the fire, Aylward said he was impressed with how the team pulled together.

"Most of these people have served on crisis action teams before, and we have a lot of talent in the states," Aylward said. "That core of experience helps everyone get their heads in the game and learn from the experts."

One of the lessons he learned early into this scrimmage, Aylward said, was the importance of everyone understanding the basics.

"You can't (assume) that everyone understands what you're talking about," he added about the importance of telling everyone about the nature of hurricanes and what crisis action teams are designed to do. "You have to start with the fundamentals of blocking and tackling before you play the game."

Those, Aylward pointed out, are the lessons a team learns from a scrimmage — before it has to play a really big game.

TUITION (Continued from page 13)

soldiers and family members in the state of assignment; and continuity of in-state tuition once established.

Users of the new Web site will be able to tell whether a particular state meets all three criteria by simply clicking on "Summary by State." A map will then pop onto the screen and users can click on the state of interest.

Other features of the Web site include a section of "Frequently Asked Questions," which can serve as a starting point for those accessing the site, Tevnan said.

In addition, a news section on the home page discusses any new developments or updates related to in-state tuition, and the references section will provide links to military education Web sites, scholarship Web sites, and other important information that may be of further assistance.

Currently, 43 states have policy or legislation that meets two of the three goals, 19 of which meet all three criteria of the model policy, Tevnan said.

Delaware, Illinois, Indiana, Michigan, South Dakota, Vermont and Virginia still have policies that are unfavorable to the military or no policy at all, he said.

The In-State Tuition Web site can be accessed by logging onto the ACES Web site: [www.armyeducation.army.mil/InState/index.HTM](http://www.armyeducation.army.mil/InState/index.HTM).

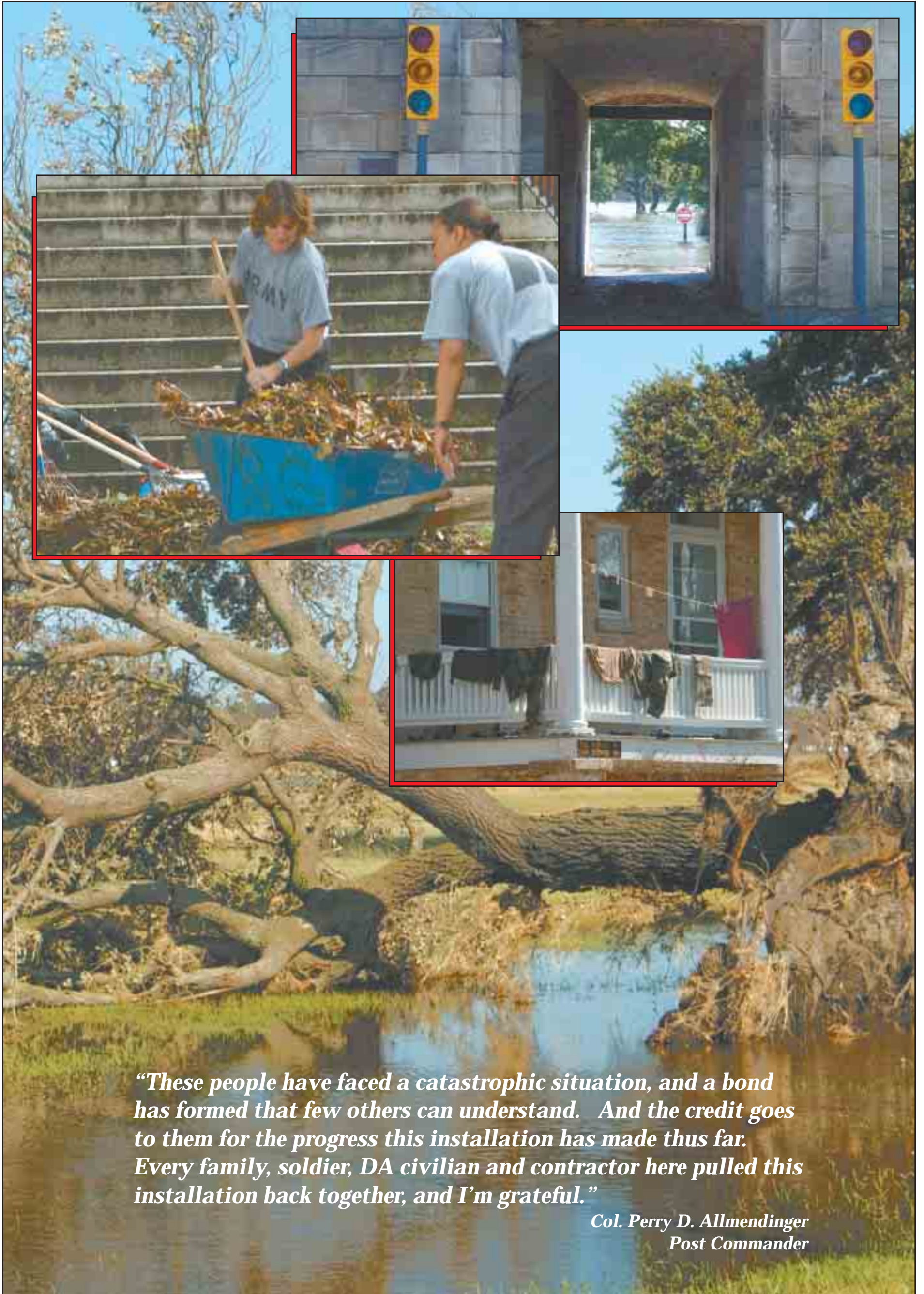
*(Editor's note: Information provided by the U.S. Army Personnel Command Public Affairs office.)*

4X8 Point Plaza

2X2

2X6





*“These people have faced a catastrophic situation, and a bond has formed that few others can understand. And the credit goes to them for the progress this installation has made thus far. Every family, soldier, DA civilian and contractor here pulled this installation back together, and I’m grateful.”*

*Col. Perry D. Allmendinger  
Post Commander*